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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 /064 W
---------- 088496
R 230812Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7267
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, AF
SUBJ: GOP WHITE PAPER ON BALUCHISTAN

REF: KARACHI 2081

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WHITE PAPER ON BALUCHISTAN
RELEASED OCTOBER 19 TRACES BACKGROUND OF HOSTILITIES
AND PRONOUNCES INSURGENCY ENDED. FORMER NAP-JUI
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, GOP CHARGES, BROUGHT ABOUT TROUBLES
BY SERIES OF ACTS CATALOGUED IN PAPER. HOSTILES
ENCOUNTERED BY ARMY SEEM SOMEWHAT MORE FORMIDABLE THAN
GOP HAS STATED PREVIOUSLY. DETAILS OF ACTIONS GIVEN,
INCLUDING 488 HOSTILE INCIDENTS, 48 MAJOR SEACH
OPERATIONS, 241 HOSTILES KILLED, 5,501 ACCEPT AMNESTY.
ROLE OF MILITARY IN BALUCHISTAN PROTRAYED IN POSITIVE
TERMS WITH HEAVY STRESS ON CIVIL ACTION ASPECTS.
AFGHANISTAN CRITICIZED FOR ATTEMPTING TO INTERNATIONALIZE
ISSUE. NAP CHIEF WALI KHAN DESCRIBES PAPER AS "BUNDLE
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OF LIES" AND PROMISES UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT "RED

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PAPER" IN REPLY. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN 56 PAGE WHITE PAPER ON
BALUCHISTAN RELEASED OCTOBER 19 TRACES BACKGROUND OF
HOSTILITIES AND PRONOUNCES INSURGENCY ENDED AS RESULT OF
ARMY ACTION THERE. WHILE MUCH OF PAPER IS REITERATION
OF PAST GOP LINE BLAMING NAP AND "SARDARS" (TRIBAL LEADERS)
FOR BALUCHISTAN'S PROBLEMS, IT INCLUDED SOME NEW DETAILS
OF HOSTILES AND MILITARY ACTIONS.

2. PAPER STRESSES THEME OF BHUTTO MANANIMINITY AND
PATIENCE WITH FORMER NAP-JUI PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT,
WHILE ALSO TRACING THAT GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS WHICH PRE-
CIPITATED TROUBLES. AFTER PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTED
IN EARLY 1972, GOP ALLEGES, IT WITHHELD COOPERATION
FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFIC BEGAN.
ADMINISTRATION, PAPER CHARGES, BEGAN ARMING SUPPORTERS,
IN PART WHEN GOVERNMENT ARMORIES WERE OPENED TO THEM.
AFTER NAP CONTROLLED ADMINISTRATION HAD "ALLOWED,
ENCOURAGED OR INITIATED ACTS ESCALATING INTO SITUATION
THREATENING SECURITY OF PAKISTAN" CENTRAL GOVERNMENT,
PAPER CLAIMS, FORCED TO INTERVENE BUT ONLY FOLLOWING REQUEST
BY GOVERNOR FOR FEDERAL FORCES.

3. HOSTILES ENCOUNTERED BY ARMY, AS DESCRIBED IN PAPER,
SEEM SOMEWHAT MORE FORMIDABLE THAN GOP HAS STATED
PREVIOUSLY. HOSTILES NUMBERED IN THOUSANDS, AND MANY
BANDS WERE OFTEN WELL TRAINED AND "NOT SHORT OF ARMS AND
AMMUNITION" GOP ADMITS. THEIR WEAPONS USUALLY 303 AND
OTHER NON-AUTOMATIC RIFLES BUT SOME AUTOMATICS AND LIGHT
MACHINE GUNS WERE USED. NO MENTION IS MADE OF RECENT
FOREIGN ORIGIN OF WEAPONS. WHILE NUMBER OF HOSTILES
LARGER THAN PREVIOUSLY ADMITTED, PAPER SAYS THEY CONSIST
OF ORIGINAL HARD CORE OF 400 MENGALS AND 500 MARRIS WITH
MOST ADDITIONALS MERELY SYMPATHIZERS AND SUPPLY CARRIERS.

4. IN TERMS REMINISCENT OF OTHER RECENT WARS, PAPER
GIVES DETAILS OF ACTIONS. HOSTILE INCIDENTS, GOP SAYS,
NUMBERED 488 "SINCE TROUBLE STARTED". ACTIVITIES INCLUDED
302 SNIPINGS, 22 AMBUSHES, 65 ACTS OF LOOTING, TWO RAIDS
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ON ARMED FORCES POSTS PLUS SUCH MINOR INCIDENTS AS 49
CASES OF CUT TELEPHONE WIRES. TO COUNTER THESE, ARMY
LAUNCHED 48 MAJOR SEARCH OPERATIONS. BODY COUNT INCLUDED
241 HOSTILES KILLED AND 62 WOUNDED. GOVERNMENT LOSSES
WERE AS FOLLOWS: REGULAR FORCES, 87 KILLED AND 93
WOUNDED; CIVIL ARMED FORCES, 34 AND 79; BALUCHISTAN
RESERVE POLICE, 21 AND 16; ATTACHED CIVILIANS 2 AND 3.
(NOTE, EMBASSY ARMY ATTACHE ESTIMATES THAT REPORTED LOSSES

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FOR REGULAR FORCES PROBABLY ONLY ABOUT ONE-TENTH OF ACTUAL
LOSSES.) AS RESULT OF GOP'S MUCH TOUTED AMNESTY PROGRAM
AND MILITARY ACTION, PAPER CLAIMS 5,501 HOSTILES HAVE COME DOWN
FROM HILLS.

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5. PAPER NOT SURPRISINGLY PORTRAYS ROLE OF MILITARY IN
BALUCHISTAN IN POSITIVE TERMS, STRESSING CIVIL ACTION
ASPECTS AND DENYING THAT AIR FORCE USED TO BOMB VILLAGES
AND HOSTILES. MILITARY PRESENCE, GOP SAYS, HAS DUAL
PURPOSE: PRESERVATION OF LAW AND ORDER AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT. SEVERAL PAGES DEVOTED TO ENUMERATION OF
CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS SUCH AS PRIORITY ROAD BUILDING PRO-
GRAM, WELL AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, ETC.

6. SIX PAGES DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF
BALUCHISTAN SITUATION, CRITICIZING ROLE OF NAP AND AFGHANS
UNDER PRESIDENT DAUD FOR ATTEMPTING TO INTERNATIONALIZE
ISSUE. AFGHAN MEDDLING SEEN IN CLAIMS TO AREA VARIOUSLY

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DESCRIBED AS "PAKHTOONISTAN" OR "GREATER BALUCHISTAN".

7. NAP CHIEF WALI KHAN DESCRIBED PAPER AS "BUNDLE OF
LIES" AND SAID UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT WOULD TRY TO
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RESPOND WITH "RED PAPER" DETAILING GOP ATROCITIES COM-
MITTED ON PEOPLE OF BALUCHISTAN. WALI'S CRITICISMS
PUBLISHED ONLY IN VERNACULAR INDEPENDENT NAWA-I-WAQT,
IGNORED BY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS WHICH GAVE WIDE
PLAY TO WHITE PAPER.

8. COMMENT: ESSENTIALLY A REITERATION OF WHAT GOP (MOST
RECENTLY BY BHUTTO IN OCTOBER 15 PRESS CONFERENCE, REFTEL)
HAS SAID ON SUBJECT, PAPER HELD NO SURPRISES. A WELL-
WRITTEN WORK, IT IS MOST COMPREHENSIVE GOP STATEMENT ON
BALUCHISTAN. ESSENTIALLY PAPER HAS TWO THEMES: (1) MAG-
NANIMITY AND PATIENCE OF PRIMIN BHUTTO WITH OPPOSITION
UNTIL DETERIORATED SITUATION FORCED HIM TO ACT, AND (2) STRUGGLE
BETWEEN FORCES OF PROGRESS AND THOSE OF FEUDALISM.
ASPECT OF LATTER THEME WHICH CONTRASTS DEVOTION OF LOYAL
ELEMENTS IN BALUCHISTAN, BUREAUCRACY AND ARMY, WITH
DISLOYALTY OF NAP, SHOULD GO DOWN WELL WITH VOTERS OF
HEAVILY POPULATED SIND AND PUNJAB IF NOT SO WELL IN NAP
STRONGHOLDS. LARGER THEME OF CONTRAST BETWEEN PROGRESS
AND FEUDALISM, IN THIS ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE, MAY BE INTENDED
TO EVOKE UN SUPPORT FOR PAK POSITION. PAPER SHOULS SCORE
POINTS WITH ARMY, LONG IMPATIENT TO BE UNLEASHED OR GET
OUT OF BALUCHISTAN, WHO MADE TO LOOK GOOD, BOTH AS
EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE AND IN BENEVOLENT CIVIC ACTION
ASPECTS.

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